

RAYMOND C. CABALLERO
MAYOR



CITY COUNCIL

JAN SUMRALL
DISTRICT NO. 1

ROSE RODRIGUEZ
DISTRICT NO. 2

LARRY M. MEDINA
DISTRICT NO. 3

JOHN COOK
DISTRICT NO. 4

DANIEL S. POWER
DISTRICT NO. 5

PAUL J. ESCOBAR
DISTRICT NO. 6

LUIS G. SARIÑANA
DISTRICT NO. 7

ANTHONY COBOS
DISTRICT NO. 8

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MAY 6, 2002
9:00 A.M.

The City Council met in special session at the above place and date at approximately 9:10 a.m., Mayor Raymond C. Caballero present and presiding and the following Council Members answered roll call: Rose Rodriguez, Larry M. Medina, John F. Cook, Daniel S. Power, Paul J. Escobar, and Luis G. Sariñana, and Anthony Cobos. Absent: Jan Sumrall. Meeting was called to order and the invocation was given by Carole Hunter, City Clerk, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

AGENDA

1. Discussion and action on the creation of the Mayor's Task Force for Downtown Redevelopment and its mission.
2. Presentation of the progress made in development of a Downtown Redevelopment Action Plan.

Mayor Raymond C. Caballero made opening remarks.

Ms. Pat Aauto, Director of Planning, made a power point presentation and answered questions. A copy of the presentation is located in the City Clerk's office.

Representative Escobar asked if they have met the goals for the rehabilitation projects.

Ms. Deborah Hamlyn, Director of Community Development, responded that they have met their goals and used up the money in rehabilitation projects.

Representative Cobos asked why Santa Fe Street was not included since it is the main corridor into Mexico, and mentioned other streets as well such as Stanton Street, etc.

Ms. Aauto responded that because it was such a large area and since this is the initial phase, it is better to draw a line for now.

Mayor Caballero commented that in the initial phase there could be the argument that many streets should be included but for now this is a very good start. He proceeded to say that Santa Fe Street would be redeveloped in the near future.

Representative Cobos responded that he has been checking the time span on when the redevelopment of Santa Fe Street will begin and it looks like in two-years, which is too long since this is the street that everyone uses when they want to go to Cd. Juarez. He proceeded to ask if we are now officially calling the Union Plaza area an entertainment area.

Ms. Adatao responded that the Union Plaza was developed as a mixed-used district and we are not calling it an entertainment area, but it is an area where we want to focus entertainment uses.

Representative Cobos asked what the plans for the International Hotel are.

Ms. Adatao responded that it could be rehabilitated or a new hotel could be built; however, all we have done for now is to identify potential areas and what could be done but we do not have specific projects.

Representative Cobos expressed his concern with the light rail and safe and secure night parking if we want people to live downtown.

Ms. Adatao responded that we are working with the Goodman Corporation as far as where the light rail should go and that they are also doing an analysis of where we can place parking spaces strategically.

Representative Cobos commended Ms. Adatao and her staff for the great presentation and asked that the inclusion of Santa Fe Street be re-considered.

Mayor Caballero commented that there are rehabilitation plans for Santa Fe Street and this is not a rehabilitation program but a redevelopment program.

Mr. Mike Breiting, Executive Director of the Central Business Association, commended the Planning department and the Council for being so visionary. He proceeded to ask if the residential area that was presented was a mixed residential area.

Ms. Adatao responded that the whole core area is a residential mixed area.

Representative Sariñana commented that the light rail is a great system but it is very expensive. He recommended that we bring a seminar into El Paso that will teach us where the money is.

Mayor Caballero stated that the Rapid Mass Transit system can be done by the City very efficiently.

Representative Cobos asked if a representative of the Goodman Corporation would comment on the light rail since the City invested \$100,000 to analyze it.

Mr. Tim Fulmer, Goodman Corporation, explained the four phases of the light rail plan and added that they have to meet the requirements of the FTA and address the different aspects.

Mayor Caballero commended all the City Departments that are involved and thanked them for how positive they have been in trying to make this process very effective and efficient, especially with all the different events taking place in the downtown area.

Mr. Fred Dalbin, architect, commented that it is very important that we get Phase I started.

Mr. Terry Williams, Deputy Director for Building Services, explained the issues with the Building Code. He stated that they are looking into some relief in the Building Code for the old buildings in order to give an incentive to the property owners for rehabilitation.

Ms. Rachelle Nedow, merchant, commended the Planning Department and Council and mentioned that she looks forward for the changes.

Mayor Caballero commended all the merchants for their positive attitude and for their support and stated that this is something the whole community should work on.

No action was taken on the agenda.

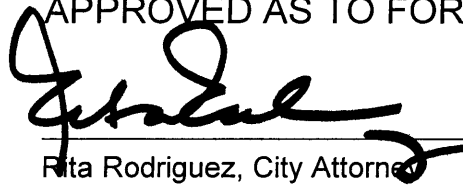
.....
Motion made by Representative Sariñana, seconded by Representative Escobar, and unanimously carried to adjourn this meeting at 9:50 a.m.
.....

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Carole Hunter

Carole Hunter, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Rita Rodriguez, City Attorney

